

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A method of damping vibration and enhancing resistance to foreign object damage and/or erosion of a metallic article, said method ~~comprising~~comprising:

applying to ~~the~~a metallic article a vibration damping coating comprising ceramic and metallic ~~components~~components, ~~for the purpose of enhancing resistance of the coating~~ enhancing resistance to foreign object damage and/or erosion, ~~thereby enhancing resistance of the article to foreign object damage and/or erosion;~~ while substantially maintaining or enhancing vibration damping performance of the coating, thereby ~~the~~ substantially maintaining or enhancing vibration damping performance of the ~~article;~~metallic article, wherein a predominant component of an outermost portion of the coating is ~~metallic;~~metallic and the ceramic vibration damping coating comprises a ~~spinel;~~spinel and the metallic article comprises a substrate including a titanium alloy.

2. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A method according to ~~claim 1~~claim 1, wherein ~~the~~

———a) the metallic outermost portion of the vibration damping coating is chosen from a list of materials comprising titanium alloys; steel alloys; nickel or any alloy or adduct consisting predominantly of nickel; and

b) the spinel is a magnesia-alumina spinel.

3. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 1, wherein the outermost metallic portion of the coating is substantially free of non-metallic intrusions or cavities.

4. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the metal comprising the ~~said~~ outermost portion of the vibration damping coating is the same as the metal of the article beneath the coating.

5. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the interfaces between the article and the coating and between the outermost portion of the coating and the remainder of the coating is continuously graded.

6. (Original) A vibration-damped metallic article in which vibration is damped by the method according to claim 1.

7. (Currently Amended) A vibration-damped metallic ~~article comprising~~ article, comprising:

a substrate comprising a titanium alloy, alloy; ~~said article comprising~~
a vibration damping coating comprising ceramic and metallic components,
wherein a predominant component of an outermost portion of the coating is metallic and is substantially free of non-metallic intrusions or cavities and the ceramic vibration damping coating comprises a spinel.

8. (Currently Amended) A ~~vibration-damped~~ vibration-damped metallic article according to claim 7, wherein:

a) the metallic outermost portion of the vibration damping coating is chosen from a list of materials comprising titanium alloys; steel alloys; nickel or any alloy or adduct consisting predominantly of nickel; and

b) the spinel is a magnesia-alumina spinel.

9. (Currently Amended) A vibration-damped metallic article according to claim 7, wherein the metal comprising the ~~said~~ outermost portion of the vibration damping coating is the same as the metal of the article beneath the coating.

10. (Original) A vibration-damped metallic article according to claim 7, wherein at least one of the interfaces between the article and the coating and between the outermost portion of the coating and the remainder of the coating is continuously graded.

11. (Original) A vibration-damped article according to claim 7, wherein the coating consists essentially of one ceramic vibration damping layer and one metallic outermost layer, optionally graded at one or more of the interfaces between the layers and between the ceramic layer and the article.

12. (Original) A vibration-damped article according to claim 11, being a component of a gas turbine engine.

13. (Currently Amended) A component of a gas turbine engine as claimed in claim 12, wherein the component is an air intake fan blade of a gas turbine engine.

14. (Original) A component of a gas turbine engine as claimed in claim 12, wherein the outermost layer consists essentially of a titanium alloy.

15. (Currently Amended) A component of a gas turbine engine as claimed in claim 13, wherein the outermost layer consists essentially of a titanium alloy.